

2
NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

U N I O N L E A G U E,

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

DECEMBER 11th, 1871.

PHILADELPHIA:

HENRY B. ASHMEAD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,

Nos. 1102 AND 1104 SANSOM STREET.

1871.

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OFFICERS

Elected December 11, 1871.

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MORTON McMICHAEL.

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CHARLES GIBBONS,
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TREASURER.

JAMES L. CLAGHORN.

SECRETARY.

GEORGE H. BOKER.

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NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
UNION LEAGUE.

It should be a solemn satisfaction to the lineal successors of the great Union Party which, at the close of the War of the Rebellion, hailed our country as unbroken in its old integrity, though crowned with the new glory of perfect liberty, that the principles then advocated with the tongue, the pen, and the sword bear their natural fruit even until the present day. Indeed, it was only through those principles that we were enabled to conduct the war, to close it in triumph, and to those principles alone the Republican Party is indebted for the tenacious hold which it has taken upon the affections of the people, and for the long continuance of the power which has been delegated to us by popular wisdom. Judging by the recent elections

throughout the country, the Republican Party is yet unweakened by the lapse of years, by what are sometimes the fatal results of easy success, and by the jarring interests and personal jealousies which have, from time to time, arisen within our own lines; for it needs only common observation to declare that we are stronger in numbers, more consolidated in sentiment, more capable to bestow good upon our country, or to avert evil from it, than at any time during our eventful history. Not only have our adversaries failed in all their attacks upon our outworks, but they have disorganized themselves by their very opposition; their party-cries have sunk to bickerings and complainings, and they now talk of stealing into our camp, and of organizing a new party under a Republican leader from the dissatisfied men within our lines and their own shattered forces. If they should choose to adopt our principles and work with us for the common good, they shall be welcomed as brothers. If they should come to sow dissension and treason in our ranks, they shall be treated as spies and as traitors. Where among the illustrious patriots of our party, who have sufficiently endeared themselves to the people to be certain of our suffrage—among the gallant men who were true to us, when to be faithful was to brave the bullet of the assassin—where shall they find one so base as to accept questionable success at the price of infamy, or to make himself conspicuous only that he may be a more evident target for scorn?

If there be one—which God forbid!—so fallen in his self-respect as to build his perishable personal interests upon the ruins of his party and of its principles, let us point him to the dense obscurity into which Andrew Johnson has sunk; let us unroll before him that man's brief chronicle, and permit the ambitious traitor to draw his own moral, and to shape his own course by that appalling failure. We think better of the great men who were tried by the ordeal of blood and of fire during the people's war, than to believe that one, who would be tolerated as a presidential candidate, can be induced to subserve so ignoble and short-sighted a purpose. Besides, there are no reasons for honest discontent with our present faithful leader. Every line of our written policy has been carried out by him to the letter. Where the letter has failed him, he has gone even beyond us in the spirit, or has wisely sought, from the wishes of Congress or of the people, a solution of his doubts, and a decision that might lead him forward upon the true path. Such was his course in the San Domingo question; and when it was evident to all men that the secret associations of midnight murderers should be dealt with by the strong arm, this conscientious Executive, accustomed though he was to the prompt measures of military rule, modestly paused, and asked from Congress a law for his guidance. Our people may be sensitive, jealous of power, irritable under disappointment, but they are not blind to what

passes before their eyes ; and we believe that the personal popularity of the President is equal to that of his party—greater even than when he returned to us covered with the glories of his victories, and asking no further reward from the people than that which his sword had won. It was neither chance nor fortune that advanced Grant from the humble position in which the war found him to be General of the American Armies and President of the United States. For each honor that he received, he could show the deeds with which it was fairly purchased ; and if he stands now above the hope of greater recompense, it is not because we have ceased to receive fair deeds at his hands, or are the less his debtors. He has been tried, he has been found more than faithful,—zealous in his constancy, and apt to anticipate and to make practical our boldest designs. We cannot better express our gratitude, nor do ourselves a greater public service than by continuing him in his high office. So that it may be recorded in history that the Founder and the Preserver of the American Union received equal honors at the hands of their countrymen.

The movement in favor of calling a Convention to amend the Constitution of the Commonwealth; the prosecution of which effort was confided to a committee of the League, has resulted successfully, and the necessary machinery of the State Government has been set in motion in order to assure the convocation of such a

convention. It is with pleasure that we return thanks to the members of the Democratic Committee who met our own in conference, and, by the weight of the double influence thus displayed, secured a result which seemed most important in the eyes of patriotic men of both parties. During the sittings of the proposed Convention, we trust that our members will place themselves in communication with the delegates from this city, and by their counsel and suggestions aid the Convention, to further the serious work which it will have in hand. We congratulate the League and the members of our Committee on having succeeded in this desirable measure, which originated with ourselves, and which was recognized as of great public utility by our citizens, and at once vigorously acted upon throughout the State.

On the thirtieth day of November, in the present year, death removed James H. Orne, a former member of our Board, from this association, to which his sometimes arduous and always disinterested services have been most valuable. It is one of the proudest boasts of the League that, during the War of the Rebellion, at a time when men were most needed, we recruited, equipped and sent into the field ten full regiments of stalwart men. To the exertions of Mr. Orne, Chairman of the Military Committee of the League, we were mainly indebted for this important result. Casting aside his private affairs, as of no value to him before the

peril of his country, he devoted himself to the work of his committee with a vigor, a zeal and a skill which has seldom been rivalled in any department of our institution. Many bereaved friends, to whom the personal qualities of Mr. Orne were dear, lament in him the loss of private virtues hard to replace, and never to be remembered without respect. While he was Chairman of the Military Committee, with great power in his control, he never sought to use his position for the advancement of selfish ends; but he bent the whole force at his disposal to the single purpose which we had in view, and found his only reward in our cordial approval of his measures. In offering our sympathies to his stricken family, we but perform an act of common humanity; in acknowledging his patriotic labors, we but do our duty as just men. We trust that the day is too distant to be counted on when the name and the services of James H. Orne shall be forgotten by the Union League.

The thanks of the League are due to the Committee of Artists, who were associated with your House Committee in collecting and presenting the various works which were exhibited in our rooms during the present year. From the throngs which visited our building, we may infer that popular interest in our Art Reception is on the increase, and that the brief sacrifice which we made of our private convenience to the public entertainment and instruction, is more than compen-

sated for by the approval of our fellow-citizens. Clubs are proverbially selfish in their rigid exclusiveness; let it be our effort to strengthen our alliance with the people, and maintain our hold upon their affections by, from time to time, opening our house, through means of some entertainment, to those whose sex or circumstances forbid them to enjoy the privileges of our membership.

The Report of the Library Committee shows that two hundred and thirty-eight volumes have been added to our collection by purchase, and eighteen by donation, during the present year, costing twenty-one hundred and seventy dollars and forty-three cents. One hundred and fifty-three volumes have been rebound at a cost of three hundred and eighty-seven dollars and sixty-nine cents. The library now contains thirty-two hundred and sixteen volumes. The Committee has also furnished newspapers, reviews and other periodicals at an expenditure of fifteen hundred and ninety-three dollars and eight cents; making in all a total outlay, for both the Library and the Reading-rooms, of forty-one hundred and fifty-one dollars and twenty cents. At the beginning of the year we were already cramped for shelf-room; the Committee has therefore enlarged the capacity of the Library by erecting additional cases in the adjoining room. Although the acquisition of books has been slowly and cautiously made, and in accordance with the appropriations voted by the Board of Directors, we

believe that the selection of works has been a judicious one ; and that by persevering in the same direction, and with the same view as to what the Library in the end shall be, at no distant day we shall possess a collection that will atone by its breadth and usefulness for its failure in elegance and luxury. There are books that are tools, and there are books that are ornaments. Your Committee has sought to supply you with the former homely class, before yielding to the enticements of the latter.

The Report of the Committee on Membership shows that since the last report the Committee has held eleven stated meetings. The names of one hundred and fifty-six applicants for membership have been laid before the Committee ; of these one hundred and forty-nine have been recommended to the Board. The Committee has also acted upon the names of forty-five as Correspondents of the League, and recommended forty-four to the favorable consideration of the Board.

The Roll of the League on the first day of December, 1871, contained the names of seventeen hundred and forty members. Of this number one hundred and twenty-four were added since the date of the last report. During the year we lost seventy-seven members by resignation, twenty-five by death, twenty-five were suspended for non-payment of their dues, and three members have become Correspondents. Forty-four Correspondents have also been elected, among whom are many

officers of the Army and the Navy, who were admitted on that footing in accordance with a resolution of the Board. This exhibit shows a decrease of six members, in comparison with the report of the previous year, but also a large increase in the number of Correspondents.

The reports of the Treasurer and of the Auditors for the present year are herewith laid upon the table for examination. The income of the League for the year ending on the first of December, 1871, was one hundred and twelve thousand, six hundred and ninety-six dollars and seventy-five cents, which, added to the surplus of the previous year, shows a total of one hundred and forty-three thousand, two hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty-one cents. The disbursements of the year were one hundred and nineteen thousand, four hundred and ninety-one dollars and forty-four cents, exhibiting a surplus for the present year of twenty-three thousand, seven hundred and seventy-five dollars and seventeen cents. From this sum is to be deducted a temporary loan of ten thousand dollars, shortly to be paid off, which will to that amount reduce the surplus which we shall carry into the accounts of the next year. In view of the prosperous condition of the Treasury, the Directors have fixed the annual tax for the coming year at twenty-five dollars.

Although during the past year the Union League as a body took little concern in the minor political issues of the hour, believing them to be of small significance

to the country at large; we trust that our members have not been blind to passing national events, nor indifferent to our glorious political record which proves that, in times of trial, of danger and of sacrifice, the League was indeed a power in the land. If individually we may choose to neglect our local politics, until our fair city fall into such hands as have ruled in our neighborhood, the shame cannot be charged upon the League, but must be laid to the account of the general apathy of our citizens. Again and again, in broad terms, we have called public attention to the faults and the abuses of our system of nominating candidates for office. We have besought our people to give earnest attention to the present and growing evils of the times, and to provide remedies, not by riotous town-meetings and ephemeral resolutions, but by personal interest and individual exertion, before the vicious growth become too widespread to be uprooted. Our counsel has fallen upon dull hearts, or has failed to arouse them to that activity which their responsibility to themselves, to their children and to their latest posterity now seems to demand. It is not for the Union League as a body, nor through its officers, to enter within the arena of local politics, to proscribe one set of men, and to insist upon the candidature of another. These are the plain duties of the citizen, which the League would but make itself justly odious by assuming, without the accomplishment of any lasting result. It would be unwise in this association

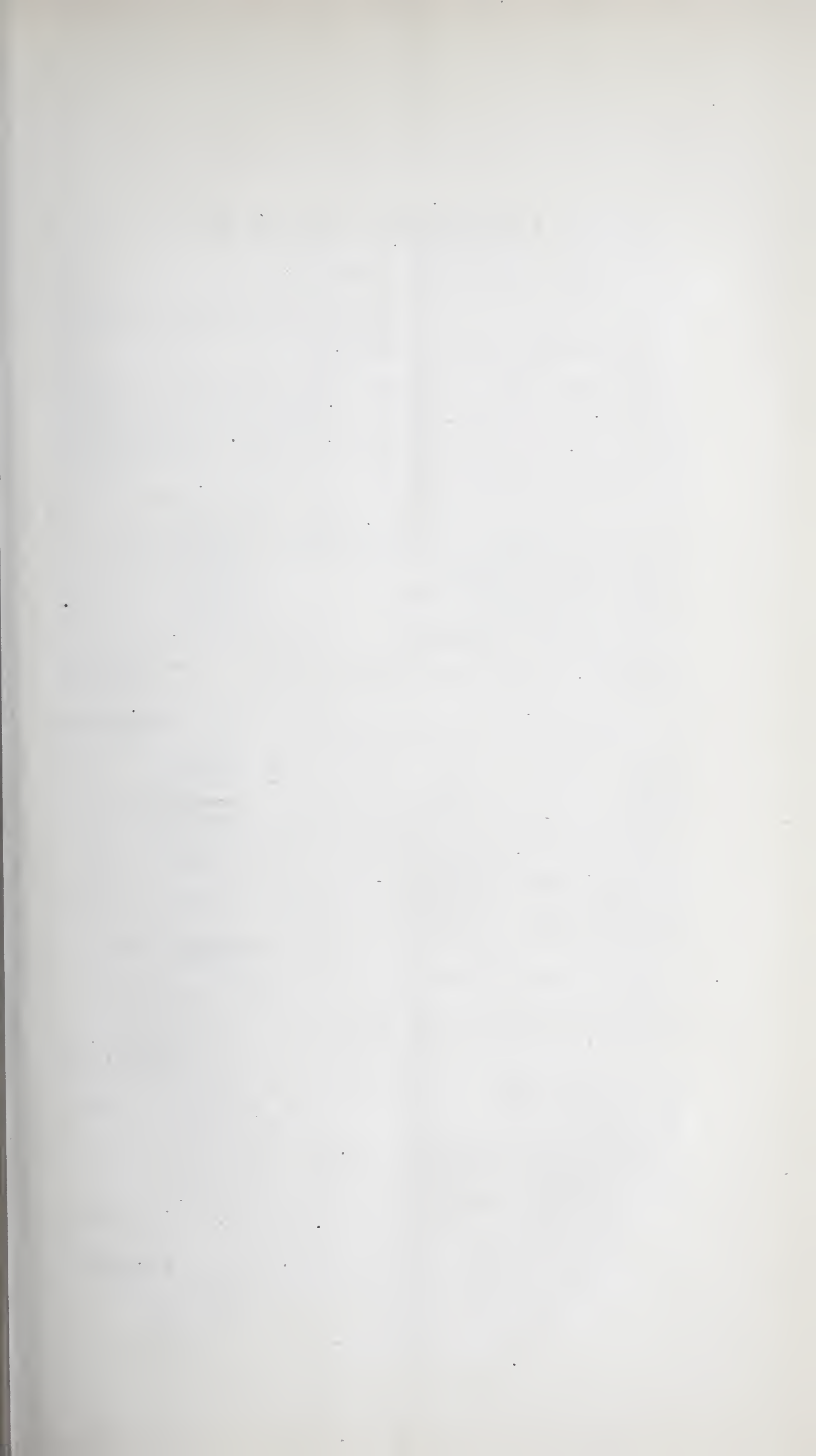
to attempt to turn itself into a third party, and thereby hold the balance between the other two. Such a course would inevitably lead to our disruption, and there would be few mourners over our fall. Whatever can be done by our members to provide the people with a higher and a purer class of candidates for office, must be done by them in their character as citizens, whether singly or in those large combinations which draw to themselves all who are in sympathy with their movement; not in an association such as the Union League, where opinions differ, where our bond of cohesion was long ago established, and is of another kind than that which binds together mere political partizans. Therefore the Directors of this institution have resolved, as far as in them lies, to discountenance any movement that may tend to make this house a battle-ground on which the differences which may arise within our party lines are to be fought out and settled. We are too solicitous about the existence of our association, with its noble national history and its present beneficent influence, willingly to permit the introduction among us of a single element that may threaten our destruction; and we trust that these views may meet with the approval of a majority of our members. Whenever there may arise a question that shall concern the nation at large, one that shall bring us into the harmony in which we moved throughout the Rebellion—such as the threat of a foreign foe, the adoption of a general public policy, or the election of a chief

magistrate of the country, we may safely predict that the League will once more resume its activity, once more set up its standard in airs that have rung with its unforgotten victories, once more marshal and lead forth its moral and material forces, once more confront the open or the insidious hostility of our opponents, once more be found, where it ever has been and ever should be found, doing battle for right—prolonged, laborious battle—with the sacred weapons of obvious truth and of simple honesty.

By order of the Board of Directors.

GEORGE H. BOKER,

Secretary.



AUDITORS' REPORT.

PHILADELPHIA, *December 1, 1871.*

To the Union League of Philadelphia.

GENTLEMEN :—The undersigned, Auditors appointed by the Board of Directors of the League, beg leave to report that they have examined the accounts of the Treasurer to the 1st inst., compared them with the vouchers, and found them to be correct. They present in the aggregate the following figures :

On hand December 1, 1870, cash in bank,	\$228 82	
\$5,000 U. S. Bonds, 6 per cent. currency,	5,170 86	
\$2,000 loan on collateral, ...	2,000 00	
\$6,000 Union League Bonds, ...	5,450 00	
\$10,000 U. S. Bonds, ...	10,718 75	
Stock on hand in restaurant, ...	3,001 43	
		\$26,569 86
Subject to a Temporary Loan since paid off,		6,000 00
		\$20,569 86
Annual tax from 1 member for 1868, at \$25, ...	\$ 25 00	
Entrance fee from 7 members for 1870, at \$25, ...	175 00	
Annual tax from 2 members for 1870, at \$25, ...	50 00	
Annual tax from 7 members for 1870, at \$12.50, ...	87 50	
Entrance fee from 117 members for 1871, at \$25, ...	2,925 00	
Annual tax from 1687 members for 1871, at \$25, ...	42,175 00	
Annual tax from 54 members for 1871, at \$12.50, ...	675 00	
		\$46,112 50
From Correspondents, ...	\$ 670 00	
From billiards, ...	3,546 58	
From restaurant sales, ...	56,731 55	
Temporary Loan on \$10,000, U. S. Bonds,	10,000 00	
Interest on Bonds, and rents, ...	1,870 50	
Stock on hand in restaurant, ...	3,765 62	
		\$76,584 25
		\$143,266 61

Amount forward, ... \$143,266 61

EXPENDITURES.

House and lot 1412 Sansom street, ...	\$ 17 85	
House and lot 1419 Moravian street, ...	51 60	
Purchase of house and lot 1421 Moravian street, ...	3,088 81	
Interest on Union League Bonds, due in 1870, ...	\$1500 00	
Interest on Union League Bonds, and Loans for 1871, ...	7315 08	
		8,815 08
Household effects, ...	1,490 48	
Trustees of the Sinking Fund, ...	5,000 00	
Expenses, ...	34,249 82	
Library Committee, ...	4,151 20	
Restaurant, ...	62,626 60	
		119,491 44
Balance, ...		\$23,775 17
\$10,000 U. S. Bonds, ...	\$10,718 75	
\$5,000 U. S. Bonds, 6 per cent. currency, ...	5,170 86	
\$1,500 Union League Bonds, ...	1,350 00	
\$2,000 loan on collateral, ...	2,000 00	
Cash in bank, ...	769 94	
Stock on hand in restaurant, ...	3,765 62	
		23,775 17
Subject to a Temporary Loan of		\$10,000 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. J. HOFFMAN, }
EDWIN N. BENSON, } *Auditors.*

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES
OF THE
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNION LEAGUE.

December 11th, 1871.

Mr. Lindley Smyth offered the following preamble and resolutions, which on motion were unanimously adopted :—

Whereas, The President of the United States has selected Mr. George H. Boker, the Secretary of this League, as the minister resident of the United States at the Court of the Sultan ; and whereas, his fellow-members are desirous of recording, prior to his departure for that position, their appreciation of Mr. Boker, both as a citizen and an officer of this organization ; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Union League of Philadelphia, in annual meeting assembled, That we see in the selection of Mr. Boker a just recognition of his eminent services as a patriot and his cultivation as a gentleman, and express our gratification that our country should be represented by one so well qualified to protect her dignity and her interests.

Resolved, That we record our acknowledgments of the faithful devotion to the social and political advancement of this League, which has marked his official conduct with it since he was elected Secretary at its first organization, and return our thanks to him for the success which has crowned his labors.

Resolved, That upon this, the eve of his departure for a foreign land, we convey to him the assurance of our friendship, and our earnest well-wishes for his prosperous voyage, pleasant sojourn and safe return.

Mr. Joshua Spering moved that the above preamble and resolutions be printed with the Annual Report, which motion was unanimously adopted.

The Honorable John W. Forney, on behalf of thirty members of the League, presented to the association a bronze bust of EDOUARD LABOULAYE in the following words :—

MR. PRESIDENT:—I have the honor, in behalf of thirty citizens of Philadelphia, members of this body, to unveil the bronze bust, in heroic size, of Edouard René Laboulaye, now before you, which they have purchased and do now present to the Union League. M. Laboulaye is world-known as the gifted French philosopher and philanthropist who has adorned his own country by numerous good works, and earned our gratitude by his steady, unfaltering support of the cause of the Union in the darkest hours of our struggle with treason and slavery. His friendship was the more valuable because it was wholly disinterested. He spoke the strong word when we were weak and friendless in the Old World; and he beautified his championship of America by the grace of his scholarship, the sweetness of his temper, and the eloquence of his counsels. This fine specimen of art is the product of the genius of M. Auguste Bartholdi, an eminent young sculptor and architect, who was decorated for his skill, and fought bravely in the Garibaldi Legion in the late war against Prussia. The friend and follower of Laboulaye, he has just returned to France, after a visit to the United States. He saw much of Philadelphia and of this League, and the bronze bust before you is an achievement that has won high praise from connoisseurs. Of M. Laboulaye, whom I had the pleasure to meet in Paris in 1867, and so learned to love and to honor him, Mr. Rosengarten will speak more in detail.

Mr. J. G. Rosengarten spoke as follows :—

MR. PRESIDENT :—In presenting through you to the Union League of Philadelphia a bronze bust of M. Laboulaye, it is right and proper that apart from its merit as a work of art, something should be said as to the fitness of adding to your gallery of illustrious men the likeness of one whose fame does not rest upon military or naval achievements, or great political services within our own borders. The special debt of gratitude which we are glad to acknowledge to M. Laboulaye, is the zealous and steadfast support given by him to the cause of the Union at a time when we wanted friends abroad. In his place as professor at the College de France, at his desk as editor of the *Journal des Debats*, with his facile and eloquent pen as author of a History of the United States, of his "*Paris en Amerique*," of a dozen pamphlets, he fought a good fight in our behalf, and earned the lasting affection of those whose cause he supported in its hour of greatest peril.

On behalf of a few members of the League who have joined in presenting his portrait bust, let me hastily sketch the leading events of M. Laboulaye's life.

Born in Paris in 1811, he completed his legal studies there, and at once began to master the German historical and juridical writers; he introduced this school of profound learning in France, and added to their erudition the charm of a clearness of expression peculiarly French, and an elevation of sentiment rare alike in his native and in his foreign cotemporaries. To his labors are largely due the revival and growth in France of the study of the history of law and the science of jurisprudence in the broadest and best sense.

In 1845 he was elected a member of the institute, and four years later he was appointed Professor of Comparative Legislation at the College de France. It was in this capacity that he addressed to a large and influential body of students and listeners, taken from all classes of liberal Frenchmen, his lectures on the Constitution and History of the United States; his first course was delivered in 1856, and he resumed the subject in 1863 and 1864, when it was of importance to us that a right view of the questions fought out on this side the ocean should be fully and fairly given. It was his zeal in opposing French intervention in Mexico, and in maintaining the justness of our

Monroe Doctrine, then imperilled by the Imperial support of Maximilian, that led to the suspension of his lectures, and this, no doubt, in turn, led him to publish the substance of his studies in his History of the United States. As far back as 1849, however, he had urgently besought his countrymen to study our Constitution as a model for their own. By his diligent labor in translating Channing's works, he introduced into French literature one of the most important productions of our own. As it was an accidental acquaintance with Channing's Sermons that first led M. Laboulaye to his study of America, and as it was a professor's chair that gave him opportunity to pursue his reading, we might have been satisfied to be so well interpreted in our theology and our law. But not content with this sort of acquaintance, M. Laboulaye studied carefully every detail of American life, and in his "*Paris en Amerique*" surprised even Americans by his intimate knowledge of our habits and peculiarities, public and private, domestic and political. Thus armed and prepared, it was fortunate for us that with the outbreak of the rebellion, M. Laboulaye at once set to work to make known to his countrymen the real merits of the great struggle in America. His pamphlets, reviews and editorials were largely instrumental in spreading abroad sound information as to the real questions at issue, and as the sympathies of the French Court were altogether in the other direction, the task required skill, address and courage. These M. Laboulaye exhibited, and to such good purpose, that the translation and republication in this country of his eloquent appeals on our behalf did much to strengthen the public faith in the cause which commended itself so powerfully to a man of such learning and such experience in the history of European governments.

Nor is our obligation to M. Laboulaye limited to his direct interposition in our behalf at that time of our bitterest necessity. As far back as 1843 he had published a report on the German civil service, the result of his examination of that important element of German greatness. When our own agitation of civil service reform began, this report was one of the best sources of information, and it was largely used by those whose appeals brought this measure of reform before the public and into Congress, where it is now receiving a full discussion. If we finally establish a real civil service we shall owe much of the arguments and many of the facts that have been submitted on its behalf to M. Laboulaye.

With all his industrious study of German science, and with all his zealous admiration of American institutions, M. Laboulaye has never relaxed in his devotion to his own country. In teaching Frenchmen lessons from our history he sought to inspire them with a love for and faith in real constitutional liberty; in giving them from his own rich stores of knowledge the true questions at issue in our struggle for the Union, he knew that he was waging war with the enemies of France as well as of America; his constant effort was to make the two nations know each other well, and think the better of one another. He did us a lasting service, and he did it by telling his countrymen the story of our own struggles, in the times of the Revolution and of the Rebellion, to establish the Union, to maintain constitutional liberty, and to preserve in its purity our national greatness and power.

That he failed to impress on France the lessons which he drew from our history, is a sad truth that needs no illustration other than the miserable issue of the last contest between France and Prussia. How far it would have been changed to the advantage of France if her people had listened to the warning voice and instruction of such men as Laboulaye, we can only conjecture; but at least it is right that while he is still living we should put upon record our sense of his services to this country, and by placing his features before the members of this League, inspire them with the earnest eloquence of his defence and support of the American Union.

Mr. Rosengarten presented the following letter from Mr. C. Miels :—

GEORGE H. BOKER, Esq.,

Secretary of the Union League.

DEAR SIR :—My Franco-American heart is so gratified by the honors of the Union League conferred this day upon that most talented, appreciative and devoted friend of this Republic, M. Edouard Laboulaye, that with uncommon pleasure do I comply with your request to write you something of what I know of this noble man. Though what I shall say may appear somewhat personal, it will present, I trust, some interest to Americans and particularly to the Union League.

When the Rebellion of the South broke out, seeing by the journals and correspondences that the liberal minds in France were much puzzled about the course to take in reference to this civil war, which they could not at first well understand, the idea came to me that I might perhaps render some little service in this critical moment to my adopted country, by making a short visit to my native one. I begged, therefore, and obtained a leave of absence from Harvard University, with which I was then connected, and started for France; my main object being to throw a true light on American affairs, where I should find it needed. To that effect I sought interviews with the leading men of the liberal party, such as Jules Simon, now Minister of Public Instruction, Eugene Pelletan, now Deputy of Paris in the Assembly, Prevot Paradol, of *Le Journal des Debats*, Louis Jourdan, of *Le Siecle*, Elisee Reclus, of the *Revue de Deux Mondes*, Frederick Morin, Edouard Fauvity, Monsieur Vacherot, and others, all men of the highest standing in the world of letters. Those who had at first some doubt on the subject soon became convinced that the war was not, on the part of the North, a war for sovereignty, but a war for deliverance. That whatever might be the outward pretensions of parties, and the particular views of many, slavery was the real cause of the struggle, and its abolition must be the ultimate result. And from that moment with a unity, talent and perseverance most remarkable, each and all of these worthy men became earnest defenders of the Union, whether in public journals or private writings; but I was, above all, anxious to meet M. Edouard Laboulaye, whom I knew to be more than any other interested in the conflict and in sympathy with this country. As he was not then in Paris, I wrote to him at his country seat. I received as answer the letter I beg to enclose, thinking that it may give pleasure to your members to see the autograph of the hero of the day.

Of course I was faithful to the appointment, and there, at Orsay, *en tete a tete* with M. Laboulaye, did I pass seven of the most agreeable hours of my life in an uninterrupted and charming conversation, the chief and about only subject of which was the American Republic, her trials, her hopes, her institutions. Great was indeed my surprise to find a Frenchman, who had never crossed the Atlantic, better acquainted with the affairs of this country than many Americans, more earnest about the maintenance of the Union than many of our celebrated politicians, and appreciating better our privileges and dan-

gers than many of your then leaders. Of that conversation I shall only relate the rather strange circumstance which was the beginning of his acquaintance with the great men and things of this country. One day as M. Laboulaye was looking for some curiosity or lost treasure on the shelves of a second-hand bookseller of the *Quai Voltaire*, he perchance opened a stray volume of sermons by William Ellery Channing. Sermons by an American preacher were things new to him. The sum of five cents secured the novelty, and while pursuing his course towards the Champs de Elysees he already reads it. The more he reads the more he wonders and grows interested, so much so that he sat down under a tree, and could not stop until he had finished the volume. Happy in this unlooked for discovery he was returning to his house, when he meets his friend M. Armand Bertin, the celebrated editor of *Les Debats*. "Congratulate me," said M. Laboulaye, "I have just put my hand on a great man." "Well," replied the editor, "one who meets with such a good fortune is indeed to be congratulated; and who is your great man?" "Channing." "Canning?" exclaims M. Bertin. "A poor discovery, indeed. Every one knows *Canning*." "I don't mean *Canning* the *Englishman*, I mean Channing an American preacher," and M. Laboulaye begs to write for the *Debats* an article on "Channing." The chief editor agrees. Not only one, but three articles are successively published on the Boston divine. Several others soon followed on other American celebrities, and from this moment this country and her institutions became the favorite topic of M. Laboulaye's studies. All his discoveries he communicates with a true enthusiasm, first to the numerous hearers of his lectures, at the College de France, then to the public through the journals or through his pamphlets, which are always read with avidity, and finally on this same darling subject he publishes two books, which will ever remain as monuments of his wonderful knowledge of and devotedness to this country, viz., "*L'histoire Politique des Etats Unis*"—a standard work of the literature of this age—and "*Paris en Amerique*," the best perhaps of modern satires. Thus, while he remained always devoutly attached to France as a revered and cherished mother, he seems to have adopted and loved "Young America" as a charming spouse. None has contributed more to make her known and appreciated in the Old World; none has suffered more with her in the days of her trials; none has rejoiced more in her final triumph, more cheerfully and confidently proposed her

example to the lovers, and even to the enemies of liberty, in his own country; no man, in a word, could better deserve the honor your League tenders to him to-day.

Shall I be allowed here to make a suggestion? No doubt some record of your proceedings to-night will be sent across the sea to M. Laboulaye, and no doubt he will feel most grateful on receiving it; but I am sure there is one thing which would gratify him beyond all expression. Our friend, M. Laboulaye, and the other gentlemen I have mentioned before, all of whom have been such ardent admirers of our institutions, and have done their utmost to uphold your cause when the Bonapartist Government was indirectly working for the dismemberment of your Republic—its nightmare—confidently expected something from you in the dark days through which France has just passed. Having all been so strangely called to the rescue, in their various capacities, of their unfortunate country, they expected while giving all their efforts, talents and energies to the gigantic task of saving her, and establishing in her on a solid basis the reign of liberty,—that Americans, the truly liberal minds of America, would at least send them words of kind and encouraging sympathy; the more so because they endeavored, in the best possible way, to found in Europe a republic somewhat after the model of your own; this being, according to their views, the only way by which that so much tried country can be saved, and resume her rank among nations.

Alas! their expectation has been thus far frustrated; but “better late than never.” At this very hour, when the reactionists of all shades show themselves so intent upon crushing to death the infant republic, and plunging France again into revolution and chaos—when all our friends have rallied, in order to preserve liberty so dearly paid for, around that wisest and most patriotic among Frenchmen, President Thiers—who can say what might not be the effect of some generous, encouraging, sympathizing words from a society like yours? A message of the kind to that noble phalanx of the “Defenders of Freedom” in France, who have all stood by you and proved your faithful friends, would make the very ashes of Lafayette start in his tomb, and would reach to the inmost recesses of the heart of Édouard Laboulaye.

C. MIELS.

On motion of Mr. J. L. Lawson, the paper read by Mr. Rosengarten, and the letter from Mr. Miels, were referred to the incoming Board, with a request that the same be published with the Annual Report.

President McMichael accepted the bust in the name of the League, and said he would direct it to be so placed that all might study the features and recall the services of our generous and unselfish French friend, Laboulaye.

On motion of Mr. Wm. D. Lewis, the thanks of the League were presented to Messrs. Adolph E. Borie, Lindley Smyth, John W. Forney, Jay Cooke, George H. Boker, William J. Horstmann, Ferdinand J. Dreer, William G. Moorhead, Joshua B. Lippincott, Bloomfield H. Moore, Archibald Campbell, Henry C. Gibson, Joseph Swift, Lewis Audenreid, Edward S. Clarke, J. Gillingham Fell, William Sellers, Morton McMichael, Joseph Harrison, Jr., James L. Claghorn, Charles H. Rogers, Samuel S. White, John McLaughlin, Edward C. Knight, Matthew Baird, Fairman Rogers, Edward W. Clark, Joseph G. Rosengarten, Hector Tyndale and Evan Randolph, donors of the bust of Laboulaye to the Union League.

Published by order of the Board of Directors.

GEORGE H. BOKER,
Secretary.

